

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nonvirulent bacterium comprising a first gene encoding a nonsecreted foreign cytolysin operably linked to a heterologous promoter and a second gene encoding a different foreign agent.

5 2. The bacterium of claim 1, wherein the cytolysin is absent a functional signal sequence.

3. The bacterium of claim 1, wherein the cytolysin is listeriolysin.

10 4. The bacterium of claim 1, wherein the bacterium further comprises a third gene encoding an invasin and a fourth gene encoding an autolysin.

5. The bacterium of claim 1, wherein the bacterium is a laboratory strain of E. coli.

6. The bacterium of claim 1, wherein the foreign agent is therapeutic to a eukaryote.

7. A eukaryotic cell comprising the nonvirulent bacterium of claim 1 further comprising the foreign cytolysin.

8. The cell of claim 7, wherein the cell is phagocytic, pathogenic or diseased cell.

9. A method for introducing a foreign agent into a eukaryotic cell comprising the step of contacting the cell with the bacterium of claim 1 under conditions whereby the agent enters the cell.

25 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the bacterium is endocytosed into a vacuole of the cell, the bacterium undergoes lysis and the cytolysin mediates transfer of the agent from the vacuole to the cytosol of the cell.

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